

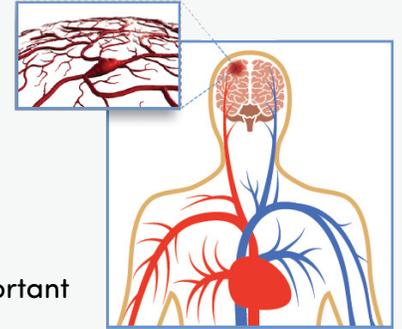
ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

The heart's job is to pump blood around the body. Normally, it does so with a squeezing action which we call our heartbeat, and beats in a steady, regular rhythm.

WHAT IS ATRIAL FIBRILLATION?

Atrial fibrillation (AFib) is a condition where the heart beats irregularly due to disorganized electrical activity in the top chambers of the heart (atria). This can cause the upper chambers to beat too fast or out of step with the lower chambers. Irregular blood flow in AFib can lead to blood clots forming in the heart, which can travel to the brain and cause a stroke or TIA.

Even if a person with AFib doesn't feel the irregular heartbeat or have symptoms, it significantly increases the risk of stroke. Therefore, it is very important to take the medication you have been prescribed to reduce stroke risk.



HOW IS ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIAGNOSED?

Atrial Fibrillation is a rhythm that can come and go. You may have one or more of the following tests to look for this rhythm:

- Electrocardiogram ECG (A short recording)
- Holter Monitor (72 hour and 14 day recording device)

TREATMENT AND ANTICOAGULATION MEDICATIONS



The treatment for AFib is anticoagulation (blood thinner) medications to prevent clots and lower the risk of stroke or heart attack.

Talk to your health care provider about the best medication for you.

Common medications include:

- Apixaban (Eliquis®)
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)
- Edoxaban (Lixiana®)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)
- Warfarin (Coumadin®)



Wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace with the name of your blood thinner medication in case of Emergency